

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 5 and 6 are directed to allowable subject matter.

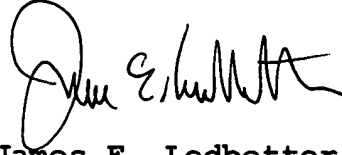
Claims 1-7 have been canceled in favor of new claims 8-13. Claim 8 recites features of original claims 1-4 and allowable claim 5. Independent claim 9 recites features of original claims 1 and 2 and allowable claim 5. Independent claim 10 recites features of original claims 1 and 2 and allowable claim 6. Independent claims 11-13 are method claims corresponding to apparatus claims 8-10, respectively. Therefore, given that each claim recites subject matter from claims deemed allowable in the Office Action, allowance of claims 8-13 is deemed to be warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone

the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Ledbetter", with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: September 27, 2006
JEL/DWW/att

Attorney Docket No. L9289.05173
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